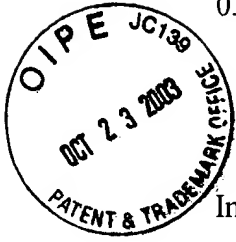


2853

03690.000063.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

TADASHI HANABUSA, et al.

Application No.: 09/661,034

Filed: September 13, 2000

For: PRINTER WITH FAST LINE
FEED SPEED

)
:
Examiner: A. Dudding
)
:
Group Art Unit: 2853
)
:
)
:
)
:
)
:
October 22, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

RECEIVED
OCT 24 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

In response to the September 25, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the Group I claims, namely Claims 1 to 28 and 46 to 73. The requirement is however, respectfully traversed.

Traversal is on the ground that there would not be undue burden in examining both groups of claims in a single application. In particular, MPEP § 808 makes it clear that in order to require restriction between independent or distinct inventions, reasons for insisting upon a restriction requirement, such as undue burden, must also be shown.

In the present instance, the Office Admits that the two sets of claims are related in that they are disclosed as being usable together. Thus, even if they are related as subcombinations that have separate utility as alleged in the Office Action, since they are so related, it is believed that a search of art relevant to one group would necessarily

encompass the other. Accordingly, it is not believed that examination of both groups of claims in a single application would not present a serious burden on the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested, and an action on the merits for all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California Office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 71877 v 1